

**REMARKS**

Claims 4-13, 16-21, 23-34, 37-40, 42-45 and 61-71 are pending in the application.

Claims 47-60 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 4-13, 16-21, 23-34, 37-40, 42-45 and 61-71 are rejected.

In the office action dated Sept. 30, 2008, claims 4-13, 16-21, 23-34, 37-40, 42-45 and 61-71 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a). These rejections have been rendered moot by the amendments above.

Claims 4-13, 16-21, 23 and 45 have been cancelled.

Claim 24 has been cancelled and replaced with new claim 72. Claims 25-34, 37-40 and 42 have been amended to depend from claim 72 instead of claim 24.

New claim 72 recites a method for preparing surfaces of a metal foil. The method comprises:

- performing grit blasting to remove oxide from surfaces of the foil;
- forming oxy-hydroxide layers on the grit-blasted surfaces;
- forming a sol gel coating on the oxy-hydroxide layers; and
- applying an adhesive coating on the sol gel-coating.

The method of new claim 72 is not taught or suggested by the documents made of record. The cited documents do not teach or suggest forming oxy-hydroxide layers on surfaces of a metal foil.

Moreover, the cited documents do not teach or suggest grit blasting a foil surface to remove oxide in preparation for oxy-hydroxide layers and subsequent sol gel coating. The office action cites a passage at col. 2, lines 17-19 of Vaughn U.S. Patent No; 3,967,091. However, that passage is silent about grit blasting. Vaughn discloses

that titanium surfaces are cleaned prior to spot welding. The cleaning involves degreasing and applying a varnish that includes aluminum powder. The aluminum powder reduces the flow of resin during heating. Col. 4, lines 34-39 of Vaughn discloses that faying surfaces of titanium test panels are grit blasted prior to spot welding, but does not teach or suggest grit blasting of thin foil prior to sol gel coating.

The cited documents do not produce a method having all of the features recited in new claim 72. Therefore, new claim 72 and its dependent claims 25-34, 37-40 and 42 should be allowed over the cited documents.

Claim 43 and its dependent claims 44 and 63-66 should be allowed over the cited documents because the cited documents do not teach or suggest grit blasting of a metal foil in combination with sol gel coating.

An objection to the specification has been raised because “terphthalate” on page 6 has been misspelled. The specification has been amended to correct the spelling as “terephthalate.” The examiner is thanked for pointing out this typographical error.

The Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues before mailing another office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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